great inconvenience and should be put a stop to. Some unimportant subjects might give place to Arabic study. The pay of Arabic *Munshies* should be enhanced. In grant-in-aid schools also there should be separate *Munshies* for the teaching of Arabic and for that purpose additional grants should be given. The practice of giving tuition in Arabic to the pupils of two standards together should be discontinued. The minimum number of pupils required for a Mahomedan school to be supported by a grant should be lowered to twenty. The Mahomedan Inspector of Schools should be placed in sole charge of everything concerning Arabic instruction in Mahomedan Schools. His pay and status should also be raised at least to those of a Headmaster of an English High School.

The Mahomedan community should be represented in the service in proportion to its population in the State although it was entitled to larger representation. Even though the Government proclaimed their policy to give special consideration to Mahomedans in the service, in practice very little was done. Even their just claims had not been considered. That there were not duly qualified candidates was a baseless excuse which the heads of departments put forward. G. O. No. 458, dated the 27th April 1925, would make this clear. The heads of departments who did not act up to the orders of the Government in the matter of making appointments had not yet furnished their explanations for default. In British India, special consideration was given in the service to communities which were backward in education. But in Travancore the number of qualified young men of the community who could not secure a place in the Government service was not small. Even those who had been fortunate to be employed in the service were not adequately encouraged by giving them suitable promotions. In the present state of the community, even those who were not fully qualified for a post should be appointed. Mahomedan non-graduates could, without detriment to the efficiency of the service, be appointed to certain posts in the Excise and the Police Departments. There was no efficient professor in the Law College for teaching Mahomedan law. Mr. Habeeb Mahomed who had the necessary qualification for the post could very well be appointed. So far as Mr. Habeeb Mahomed was concerned, it was only a just claim. The Mahomedan community should have at least its due share of appointments in the service. It was entitled to 7 per cent. of the posts in the State service, high and low, in view of its population strength.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Sultan Mohideen, most of the points you have taken up have already been touched upon in the representations and replies that have been made to-day.

2. The only point I need specially take up is your advocacy of the claims of an individual whom you named more than once. In respect of that, I bring it to your notice, with all the emphasis I am capable of, that this serious Assembly is not an employment agency and that its Members are not recruiting sergeants. I regret I cannot consider the recommendation of any named individual to any particular appointment by any Member of this Assembly.

153. Grievances of Arasars, Bharatars, and other coast-men.

MR. C. M. SWAMINATHA PILLAI (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Tamilian Arasars, Bharatars, and other people inhabiting the coast stood largely in need of building sites and the Government should kindly grant them the necessary sites on concessional terms. They were suffering untold hardships due to scarcity of good drinking water. Wells and tanks should therefore be sunk in their villages at suitable centres. The canal which was now traced to pass through their villages should be completed without delay. Fishing was the main occupation of these people. With the enhancement of export duty on fish, their industry had received a set-back, and they were suffering badly under it. It should be lowered. The coast road from the Cape to Colachel should be completed. At present, only for a distance of five miles, *i. e.*, from Chempakaramanputtanturai as far as Rajakkamangalam there was no road. It was this section of the road which required completion. The people were prepared to surrender lands without compensation for the construction of the road, if so required. A short branch road to a distance of three quarters of a mile from Manavalakurichi market to Katiapattanam should also be constructed without delay.

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The liquor shops from Colachel to the Cape situated near the villages of the people on the coast should be removed as drinking was one of the causes of their degeneracy. The boys of these communities should be given compulsory primary education up to their tenth year of age and they should also be given suitable appointments in the service. A qualified Medical Officer and a Sanitary Officer should be specially deputed to visit these villages and render the people the necessary aid.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Swaminatha Pillai, you spoke about the registry of building sites on concessional terms to your community. You know that there is a Government order issued in 1922 saying that building sites not exceeding 10 cents should be provided for Arasars and others along the sea coast and certain backward communities. I shall have an enquiry instituted to see how far this concession has been availed of and shall instruct the local officers to do their best to encourage the members of the community to avail themselves of this order of Government.

2. In the matter of wells, the Government have arranged for the sinking of these on the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner, and I am informed that three such wells have already been sunk. I think it is in the Muttam village and provision exists in this year's budget, and I hope there will be in every successive year's budget, for sinking wells all along the coast wherever needed.

3. Your next point is the hardship entailed by the enhancement of export duty on fish. Perhaps, if I explain to you a few figures, you will see that there has been no enhancement in effect. As long ago as 1876 the export duty on fish was fixed at Rs. 3 per cwt. Recently, the Government fixed it at Rs. 10 per cwt. So considerably has the price of fish and prawn risen during this period that Rs. 10 per cwt. represents 2½ per cent. of the tariff value of fish.

4. In the matter of liquor shops, the Excise Commissioner has been steadily, if slowly, removing the liquor shops away from the centres where a large number of fisher-folk are congregated.

5. You talk of compulsory education of boys up to the age of ten, and, immediately they reach ten, of Government providing suitable appointments to them. Earlier at the sitting of this session, the question of compulsory education was discussed, and I explained that, for financial and other reasons, it is impossible to institute compulsory education in the country at present. As for providing every boy of ten with a suitable appointment, the only appointment that the Government can give to every one is that of a loyal and self-supporting citizen of the State.

6. All the other points of your representation will be carefully considered.

154. Advancement of the Catholic Arasar community.

MR. G. A. FERNANDEZ (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Roman Catholic Arasar community was backward in point of education, material prosperity, etc. There was no possibility of ascertaining the advance made by this community, because it was not separately classed; for instance, the report of the Education Department which gave the progress of education of 'special classes' never contained any mention of the Catholic Arasar community. The Catholic Arasar community which was an independent homogeneous community by itself was merged in the wider community of Roman Catholics. In all Government records it should be treated separately under the head of "Catholic Arasars".

In spite of the fact that the Catholic Arasars were given the benefit of the fee concession, 75 per cent. of the boys and girls still remained illiterate. This was on account of their low economic condition. The pupils belonging to the community should therefore be given full fee concession. The members of the community were also disinclined to take to education. Primary education in respect of the Catholic Arasars should therefore be made compulsory. Free supply of noon meal to pupils of the community would be a source of help and inducement. As most of the boys and girls of the community would be away in the day following their ancestral profession, night schools should be started where tuition in reading, writing and arithmetic and some useful cottage industry should be given.

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